

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and devices are provided for implementing security groups in an enterprise network. The security groups include first network nodes that are subject to rules governing communications between the first network nodes and second network nodes. An indicator, referred to as a security group tag (SGT), identifies members of a security group. In some embodiments, the SGT is provided in a field of a data packet reserved for layer 3 information or a field reserved for higher layers. However, in other embodiments, the SGT is provided in a field reserved for layer 1 or layer 2. In some embodiments, the SGT is not provided in a field used by interswitch links or other network fabric devices for the purpose of making forwarding decisions.